

State Information about Kentucky

Kentucky's farm economy, long based principally on tobacco, corn and beef production, has shifted in recent years to a more diversified variety of income-producing elements. Strong emphasis is now placed on such items as broilers, soybeans, wheat, goats, vegetables, dairy products, and swine.

The 2002 Census of Agriculture counted 86,541 farms in Kentucky. Census figures report that these farms sold \$3.1 billion dollars worth of agricultural products, an average of \$35,591 per farm. Land in farms fell 1 percent from the 1997 Census. The average size of farm was 160 acres, up from 153 acres in 1997.

Kentucky is called the Bluegrass State because of the abundant bluegrass growing in the rich limestone soil found mostly in the central part of the State between Louisville and Lexington. Though not really blue, the grass does lend a bluish hue when in full bloom. This region produces the thoroughbred horses for which the State is well known.

Population	4,041,769 (2000 U.S. Census)
Rank	25th among States in population
Density	101.7 per square mile
Urban	2,253,800 (55.8%)
Rural	1,787,969 (44.2%)
Land Area	25,388,000 acres, or 39,728 square miles
Rank	37th among States in land area
Farmland	55% of total acreage
Altitude	Highest - 4,145 feet on Big Black Mountain in Harlan County Lowest - 257 feet at Mississippi River in Fulton County
Capital	Frankfort
Largest City	Louisville
Number of Counties	120

More Census figures include:

- Sixty-seven percent of all Kentucky farms sold less than \$10,000 worth of agricultural products, compared to 59 percent in 1997 and 55 percent in 1992.
- Number of tobacco farms declined 38 percent from 1997. Tobacco acres harvested fell 56 percent.
- Corn acres harvested declined 8 percent while soybean acres harvested increased 5 percent from 1997.
- Total cattle and calf inventory was down 3 percent from 1997. Beef cow inventory decreased 2 percent while milk cow inventory fell 17 percent from 1997.
- Total hog and pig inventory fell 34 percent from 1997.
- Fifty-four percent of Kentucky operators considered farming their primary occupation, up from 40 percent in 1997.
- The average operator age was 55 years old, up slightly from 54 years old in 1997.

All Farms		2002	1997
Census farm count number		86,541 ^{1/}	91,198
Land in farms acres		13,843,706	13,940,180
Average size of farm acres		160	153
Farms by size:			
	1 to 9 acres	5,342	8,261
	10 to 49 acres	24,758	24,285
	50 to 179 acres	36,628	37,646
	180 to 499 acres	14,950	16,110
	500 to 999 acres	3,175	3,374
	1,000 to 1,999 acres	1,214	1,131
	2,000 acres or more	474	391
Harvested cropland acres		4,978,994	4,853,500
Net cash farm income of operation:			
	farms	86,591	N/A
	\$1,000	847,511	N/A
Average per farm dollars		9,788	N/A
Corn for grain or seed	farms	7,446	11,655
	acres	1,043,990	1,135,936
	bushels	108,721,040	115,775,864
Soybeans for beans	farms	5,645	7,127
	acres	1,343,039	1,278,829
	bushels	43,939,662	43,487,052
Tobacco	farms	29,237	46,850
	acres	110,734	250,885
	pounds	219,978,920	497,856,262
Cattle And Calves Inventory	farms	47,447	53,500
	number	2,395,476	2,476,949
Hogs and pigs inventory	farms	1,254	2,129
	number	385,811	584,632
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold	farms	669	314
	number	271,176,998	111,920,659

^{1/}Official NASS 2002 Kentucky farm estimate 87,000 farms.

POPULATION, EMPLOYMENT, AND INCOME <u>1</u> /				
		State	Metro	Nonmetro
Population				
	1990	3,685,296	2,039,854	1,645,442
	2000	4,041,769	2,253,800	1,787,969
	(Latest) 2003	4,117,827	2,327,854	1,789,973
Per-capita income (2001 dollars)				
	2000	24,832	28,534	20,068
	2001	24,878	28,533	20,150
	Percent Change	0.2	-0.0	0.4
Earnings per job (2001 dollars)				
	2000	30,103	33,327	24,491
	2001	30,399	33,800	24,489
	Percent Change	1.0	1.4	-0.0
Poverty rate (percent)				
	1989	19.0	13.9	25.4
	1995	17.9	13.6	23.2
	(Latest) 1999	15.8	11.6	21.2
Total Number of Jobs				
	2000	2,341,319	1,487,039	854,280
	2001	2,318,889	1,471,788	847,101
Unemployment Rate (percent)				
	2001	5.4	4.6	6.6
	2002	5.6	4.9	6.6
Percent employment change				
	1999 - 2000	1.5	2.0	0.8
	2000 - 2001	-1.5	-2.0	-0.7
	2001 - 2002	-1.2	-1.5	-0.6
Percent of 2000 employment in farm and farm related jobs				
	Total	20.3	17.5	25.2
	Production	4.9	2.6	9.1
	Farm Inputs	0.3	0.3	0.3
	Processing and Marketing	2.2	1.7	3.0
	Wholesale and Retail Trade	12.0	12.0	11.9

1/Source: Economic Research Service, USDA, Washington, DC.